



Conservation Successes – December 2003

Surplus Military Recreation Site Becomes Festival Park

Community obtains open space for celebrations, special events, and promenade

Fayetteville, NC (August 11, 2003) –The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks program transferred at no cost 4.35 acres to the City of Fayetteville for public park and recreation use. Formerly used as the Army's USO Club for military personnel, this closed recreation center contains undeveloped open space which will be integrated into the City's Festival Park. The property will be developed with an amphitheater for community events and a large grassy lawn. Adjacent parcels will be developed with a formal entry plaza, promenade, interactive water fountain feature, and pedestrian walkways connecting to a proposed greenway trail.

Valued at over \$230,000, acquisition of this property will help the City provide close-to-home park and open space opportunities in the growing Fayetteville area. This is the first assignment of property in North Carolina (and the 29th in the Southeast Region) that has been made available for park and recreation use under the Military Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC).

The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA, at Bill_Huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.



At-Risk Youth Build Their Lives by Building Trails

Two miles of Arizona Trail completed

Pinal County, AZ (December 2003) – Over two dozen young people, ranging in age from 16 to 21 years, participated in a job-training program that included building two miles of technically

- National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:
- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) -
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challenging trail switch-backs in rugged backcountry. The youth camped on-site for a three week period and received instructions in safety, first aid, leadership skills, tool use, native plants, trail design, and trail development. The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) obtained funds for the teenage job-training program and worked with the Arizona Trail Association and the Phoenix Botanical Garden to include instructions about the importance of native plants. The Arizona Trail will eventually extend from the Mexico Border to Arizona's Border with Utah. For more information, please contact Joe Winfield, Landscape Architect, RTCA, at joe_winfield@nps.gov or (520) 670-6501 x265.

National Center for Recreation and Conservation Staff Awards

(This list includes recognition of staff from the past six months.)

Margaret Watkins, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, recently received the "Tudor Richards Award" from New Hampshire Audubon in recognition of her "tireless and effective efforts on behalf of conservation in New Hampshire".

Mark Weaver, RTCA, received an award from America's Outdoors in November for his extensive involvement with Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service partners on the new America's Outdoors Center in Milwaukee, WI. Learn more about this unique partnership at <http://www.americasoutdoors.gov/>

Joan Harn, Hydro program coordinator in Washington, D.C., was recognized by "Hydro Review" magazine with the Author's Award for her article, "What's New in Washington: Viewpoints of Agencies Involved with Hydro."

In addition, 6 staff were lauded by their peers with the RTCA Staff Award at RTCA's Annual Training in November 2003:

- * Alison Bullock, Chattanooga, TN, was awarded for her work on regional, state, and local trail and greenway projects.
- * Charlie Stockman, Washington, D.C., was recognized for constant and creative support of RTCA projects nationwide and for demonstrating a passionate commitment to the program and National Park Service mission.
- * Harry Williamson, Sacramento, CA, received an award for development of the California Hydropower Re-licensing Program and provided exceptional leadership to the CA Wild and Scenic Rivers program.
- * Lisa Lyons, based at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site in Hyde Park, NY, received recognition for providing critical assistance to local partners and Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Inc. to establish a NY route for the 740-mile trail.
- * Steve Bonner, Austin, TX, received an award for assisting the formation of Land Legacy, a new statewide land trust in Oklahoma, and fostering an innovative project for Department of Defense land holdings for conservation, recreation, and base operations.
- * Alex Stone, Seattle, WA, was recognized for developing three effective partnership initiatives that serve as national models to RTCA staff. They include a framework for RTCA and American Society of Landscape Architecture partnership; a model for community-based health planning for trails and physical activities; and a partnership between RTCA and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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